

The Contest JUG



Newsletter of the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB
Post Office Box 2025
Castro Valley, California 94546

Cheap at Half the Price

No. 33
February 1975

Pres.: WB6CEP. VP/Contest Chmn: WA6DIL. Sec/Treas: W6KHI. Directors: WB6AIN, WB6DSV, W6RGG.
Trash Compactor: W1ARR/6. Trash Distributor: WA6NLQ.

How You Can Win Contests!

MEDITATE UPON THE WORDS OF OUR NEW PRESIDENT!

((You will recall that, in the wake of a recent coup d'etat, WB6CEP has been installed as our new spiritual leader. Therefore let us hearken to the mystical ravings of the Guru Maharaji Cep:))

Whew! An introduction like that is hard to follow (especially without a dictionary and a Thesaurus -- now I know why RGG got his). I cringe in anticipation, sensing that sooner or later our Glib Lexicography Fanatic will go straight for the JUGular. But it would be wrong . . . to make a priori assumptions about future misdeeds, despite previous multiple transgressions against respected statesmen and institutions. Innocent until proven guilty (or pardoned) -- that's the American way.

"Forsaking levity with some reluctance" (to quote an Anonymous Radio Reporter), let me outline what I see as the Club's two major priorities for 1975.

First and foremost is to continue building a program of activities in which members will enjoy participating. Besides the established activities such as the Tuesday-night net, Club repeater, post-meeting gatherings at the Round Table, Christmas Party & Awards Banquet, etc., the slate for this year will include Contest ((QSY to Page 2))

PREVIEW OF COMING DISTRACTIONS

Feb. 24	NCCC club meeting, American S&L Bldg, Hayward, 7:30 PM
Mar. 1- 2	ARRL DX Competition (phone)
15-16	ARRL DX Competition (CW)
24	NCCC club meeting, American S&L Bldg, Hayward, 7:30 PM
Apr. 19-20	Fresno International DX Conf.
28	NCCC club meeting
May 2- 4	Pacific Div. Conv., Fresno
17	Armed Forces Day
26	NCCC club meeting

ATTEND YOUR CLUB'S NEXT MEETING!

The next gathering of this motley crew will occur on Monday, Feb. 24, at 7:30 PM sharp (i.e., 7:45, not 8:00). QTH: American Savings & Loan Bldg (rear, 2nd floor), 22533 Foothill Blvd, Hayward. A how-to-get-there map may or may not appear somewhere in this JUG.

WB6CEP & Co. have lined up a rrrilly big shew for us, the highlight of which will be a DX Contest forum. Bring your questions along and hear them answered as if by magic! What time was that 9K2 on 14207? Was the ST2 short or long path? What hour on 40 should have produced my best JA rate? Why am I such a rotten operator? For optimum results, bring your contest log to the meeting.

OM's, if you live in local Club area and don't attend meetings, you aren't doing your part to support the Club. If you live within 175 miles of Castro Valley but more than 50 miles from same and you don't attend at least half the meetings in a calendar year, then you can't submit your contest score on behalf of the Club. This is a tremendously important year for the NCCC -- do your share for your Club!

CHECK INTO THE NCCC 75-METER NET!

Every Tuesday evening at 7 PM local time, on or near 3815 kHz, amid the usual inconsequential chatter and obscene babbling that is the heart and soul of our wonderful 75-meter band, you will discover a group of your fellow NCCC'ers busily engaged in furthering the aims and aspirations of the Club. The quality of conversation is not necessarily any higher than that of anyone else on the band -- but it's our guys, gang! All Club members are encouraged to add to the QRM by checking in.

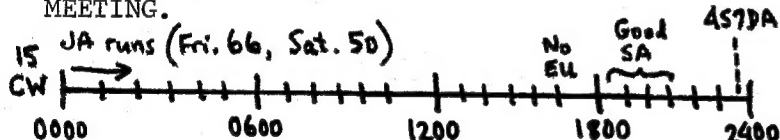
The NCCC repeater, WR6ADM, operates on 449.2 MHz input, 444.2 output. If quasi-CB is what turns you on, why not turn WR6ADM on. No net -- just spur-of-the-moment stuff. And it's a handy way to get your score to WA6DIL.

Clinics, Field Day, club-meeting programs featuring NCCC experts talking about all phases of contest and contest-related activity, DXpeditions to rare counties in the NCCC-sponsored California QSO Party, possibly a real DXpedition in CQ WW, picnics and other informal get-togethers, and the Erector Set antenna crew for put-up jobs.

On the operating side, our Number One priority for 1975 is to be the Number One club in the ARRL November Sweepstakes. FIRST PLACE IN THE SS! The potential is definitely there if we can get it all together in November. It will require determination, unity and effort on the part of every member.

The topic for the program at this month's meeting might well be described as "All You Ever Wanted or Needed to Know About the ARRL DX Contest." A panel of five stalwart NCCC contesters, representing an approximate cross-section of the membership, will guide the discussion.

First they will lead a band-over-time analysis of all bands, 160-10, seeking the answers to such questions as: When were the best runs and what rates were achieved with what classes of stations? When did good openings occur to which areas? When and where did good multipliers show up? etc. Every DX Test participant is encouraged to GO THROUGH HIS LOGS, SKETCH OUT HIS OWN BAND-OVER-TIME CHARTS (see example) AND BRING THEM TO THE MEETING.



The second portion of the program will be a question-and-answer session about contest strategy, operating and techniques. I suspect questions will run the gamut from "I run 200 watts to a tribander 15' above the roof -- when would be the best time to get on for 3-4 hours of fun operating?" to "What's the best way to break through a pileup on CE0Z?" BRING YOUR QUESTIONS (and some answers, too) TO THE MEETING!

If you have any comments, ideas, questions or whatever, please feel free to call or write me, your local Board member, or even the JUG Editor. We'd like to know what you are thinking. -- 73, Bill, WB6CEP.

((Ed. Note: FB, Bill. I especially liked the part where I understood what you were talking about.))

THE SOUND OF SILENCE. The JUG mailing list continues to grow like Topsy -- and so does the number of members whose sole Club

activity seems to be that of fishing the JUG out of their mailboxes once a month. As for operating in contests, attending meetings, or just plain letting us know their hearts continue to pump -- well, the absence is conspicuous.

In view of this undesirable situation, the Board is going to review the mailing list at least twice a year and remove the names of NCCC members who have not attended a meeting in the previous twelve months or who have not in some way indicated their continuing interest in the Club and in receiving the JUG. THIS DOES NOT AND WILL NOT AFFECT ANYONE'S MEMBERSHIP IN ANY WAY. Whether you stay on the mailing list or get dropped, you remain a Club member for ever and ever, amen, unless you specifically request that your membership be terminated.

Of secondary importance, but by no means a trivial matter, is the effort and expense involved in putting out this newsletter. It's silly to mail it to people who don't want it, so if you're in that category please let us know! (It won't hurt our feelings.)

To further ease the financial burden of producing this monthly mess, we ask that NCCC members living outside local Club territory (i.e., more than 175 airline miles from Castro Valley) ante up \$2 annually for their subscriptions to the JUG. Please send the money to our Sec/Treas, W6KHI, who will keep records and dun you again when your sub expires.

IMPORTANT! If a red X appears at the left of your address on this edition of the JUG, THIS IS YOUR LAST JUG UNLESS YOU NOTIFY US THAT YOU WISH TO REMAIN ON THE MAILING LIST! If you submit the Club questionnaire attached to this issue, we'll consider that prima facie evidence that you do want to keep receiving the JUG. One way or the other, W1ARR/6 must hear from you by March 12 or you're offffff. Beware the dreaded Red Cross . . .

SWILL FROM DIL. ((Introducing the new VP/CC, the successor to Chairman Ain: Dave Wilkinson, WA6DIL:)) First, I think we owe Dean, WB6AIN, a vote of thanks for his time and effort in doing such a fine job during his term. Being VP/CC is a never-ending task and I know I'm going to need all the help I can get. The best way is for you to keep me informed about your activities, plans and ideas.

The first thing I ask is that you fill out the questionnaire attached to this issue. It would greatly help Yours Truly to get a clear picture of our Club's picture for 1975.

The NCCC is fast becoming a power to reckon with, and with a bit of effort we could be among the top clubs (if not the top club -- Murphy's, beware!). To do this, we've got to

put our objectives first -- namely, by operating in the contests, and (above all) LETTING ME KNOW YOUR SCORES! Big club scores are put together by adding up a lot of small and average scores (and of course a few big ones don't hurt either), and unfortunately the scores don't get added when the logs are sitting on your operating table underneath the coffee cups and cigarette butts. SEND ME YOUR LOGS and I'll mail them in bulk to ARRL Hq. or CQ.

I'm going to try my best to line up operators with stations, and vice versa, so everyone can have a chance to contribute his efforts for the good of the Club. We've got a lot of good stations and a lot of good operators, so let's get the two together and go!

So please try to fill out and mail that questionnaire so I can start work right away. CU at the meeting! -- 73, Dave, WA6DIL.

THE REVOLVING DOOR. We hooked three more live ones at the January meeting: Bill, K6QAX (San Mateo); Bill, WB6RGR/WA6WSW (San Jose); and Don, W6ZGM (Yuba City). Addresses and phone numbers for these FB OM's can be found in the enclosed roster. Glad to have you with us, fellers!

At least for the present, we must bid a fond adieu to Dale Jones, W6GEN/W7CFJ, who has been transferred to Albuquerque. Best of luck, Dale -- and keep in touch. (Dale's W5 office address is also in this roster.)

THE NEW CENTURIONS elected at our January meeting, as most everybody must know by now, are WB6CEP, President; WA6DIL, Vice President & Contest Chairman; W6KHI, Secretary/Treasurer; WB6AIN, WB6DSV, W6RGG, Directors. The JUG hereby goes on record as endorsing this slate as long as there's no funny business.

(VE3DXV/W6 was elected Secretary/Treasurer but had to decline the position because of business commitments. We hope to continue to have the benefit of Adam's counsel, however.)

While on the subject, a word of tnx should be extended to former Sec/Treas WA6NLQ, who conscientiously performed those laborious duties and continues to do the dirty work involved in processing the JUG for mailing. Good luck on those exams, Stu.

And finally, mooches gracious to W6HQN, W6OAT and W6PAA, our former Directors. They directed with verve, flair and wit. (Hmmm, that makes a total of six Directors.)

NCCC INTRA-CLUB COMPETITION

This new format is intended to replace the team competition concept that we scrapped last fall. An example of how this competition works is shown in the next column over.

Official rules will appear in the March issue in time for ARRL DX Test results.

While the format basically follows the ARRL SS scheme, with a few special additions to minimize squabbling over the rules yet give recognition at other levels besides the very top, an important difference will be that you MUST GET YOUR SCORES INTO THE HANDS OF THE VP/CONTEST CHAIRMAN by the club meeting immediately following the contest, so that winners of the competition can be listed in the next month's JUG. -- WB6CEP.

EXAMPLE BASED ON '74 SS RESULTS

The Cheerios Kid (he knows his OATs) brought home the Bacon (or was it the other way around?) on both modes, with a fabulous 161K CW and 219K phone effort for a grand total of 380 kilopoints. Vy FB, Rusty!

Close on the heels of WA7NIN (W6OAT, opr.) were WB6AIN (operating at W6MAV and K6EBB) with 340K, and K6CQF (W6PAA, opr.) with 314K. WA6HAF (WA6GMR) at 140K barely beat out W6HJP's 131K with a fine phone effort in the low-power competition. -- WB6CEP.

CW

Most Improved over '73 Score: W6HJP 97½% (79K)

Overall Winner: WA7NIN (W6OAT, opr.) 161K

Section Winners:

<u>Section</u>	<u>KW</u>	<u>200W</u>
EBay	117K W6MAV (WB6AIN)	65K WB6CEP/M6
NV	161K WA7NIN (W6OAT)
SV	100K WA6JVD	31K K6SG
SF	154K W6NUT
SJV	153K K6CQF (W6PAA)
SCV	141K K6EBB	79K W6HJP

PHONE

Most Improved: W6OKK (WB6DSV) 37% (174K)

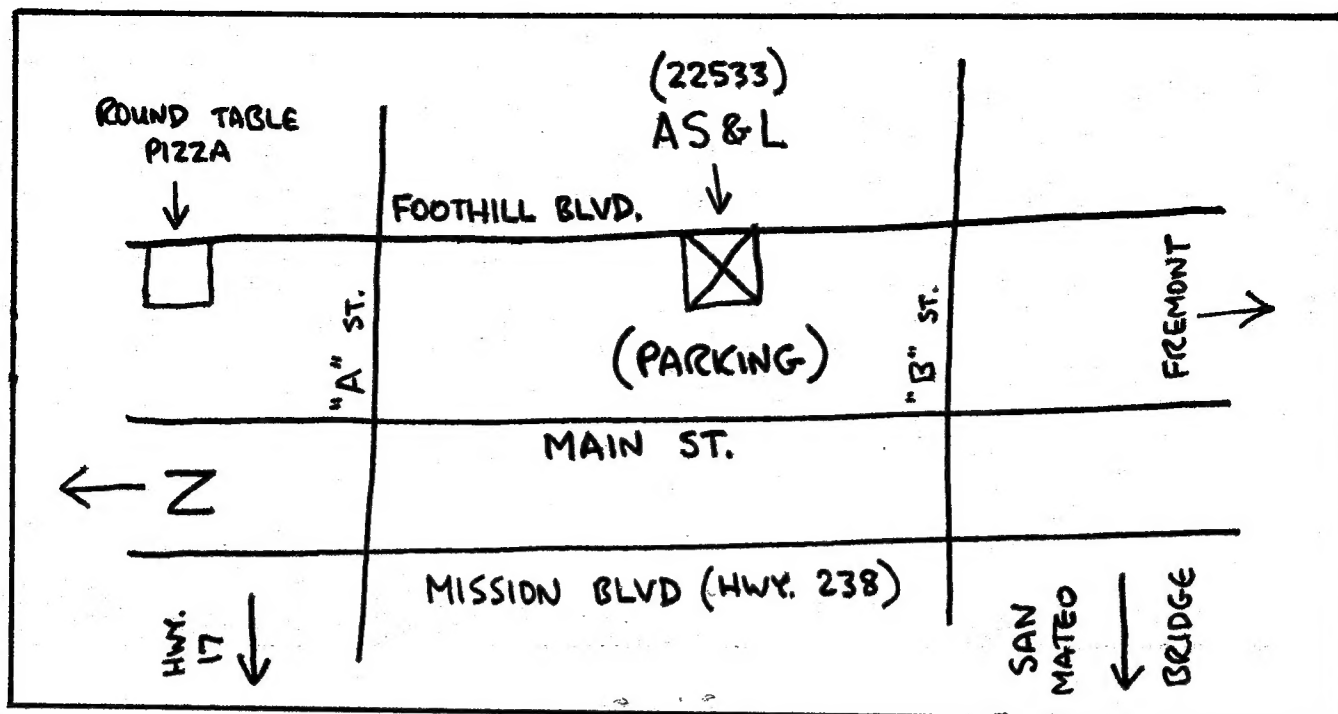
Overall Winner: WA7NIN (W6OAT) 219K

Section Winners:

<u>Section</u>	<u>KW</u>	<u>200W</u>
EBay	125K WB6ION
NV	219K WA7NIN (W6OAT)
SV	50K WA6JVD	140K WA6HAF (GMR)
SF	123K W6BIP
SJV	161K K6CQF (W6PAA)
SCV	199K K6EBB (WB6AIN)	90K WA6WEI (GSN)

Accurate Predictors (made 100-110% of predicted score): ((We'll know next year!))

One final note to highlight another high score: WA6LOT 204K. That's the total contributed by our Limited Operating Team -- the OM's who chipped in a few hours to boost our score. These li'l scores are Worth A (6) Lot!



CU AT THE MEETING . . . MONDAY, FEB. 24 . . . AS&L BLDG., 22533 FOOTHILL, HAYWARD

AN EPPSPLANATION. Every time we're just about convinced that nobody ever reacts to anything printed in the JUG, along comes W6OAT reacting all over the place. This club could use a hundred Epps . . . er, Eppses (Eppseses?) Well, one Epp is better than 0.

"WA6NLQ's letter raises some good points. Regarding the avoidance of duplicate DX QSO's, I'd suggest we go one step further than Stu has done and institute a contest-type Q-signal: QBF? In essence, this Q-signal asks 'Is this a valid QSO?' -- or, to make the query match up a bit more with the letters, 'Have we QSO'd BeFore (on this particular band and mode)?'

"During the January CD Party (CW) I actually tried using QBF. It worked! Better yet, it required no explanation to the other stations. Contesters are a sharp bunch and, I think, would be quick to pick up on a Q-signal that would benefit them. Look how fast the alphabetic shorthand for digits (T = 0, N = 9, A = 1, etc.) caught on. Almost everybody uses it now (or at least understands it) even though I have never seen an explanation in print. Certainly there are enough of us in the NCCC that if we all just started using it, others would pick it up.

"Stu's second article asking for station descriptions is simple enough. The layout at W6OAT/6 consists of one 2-meter transceiver (Standard SR-C826M) plus mobile whip; one 450-MHz transceiver plus a 6-element beam; one TO Keyer; one pair of Superex headphones; and a toothbrush.

"Re WA9UCE's suggestion for an all-band

SS, I for one like it. I think the present format is a drag. Certainly the SS as now structured requires a lot more brute force than strategy or finesse. It's really a bore spending Sunday afternoon butting into other people's QSO's trying to coax non-contesters into giving you an SS exchange. Being able to work stations on different bands would at least keep the rate up and keep you busy for the whole 24 hours. CU on the 27th!"

SEDIMENT. Looking ahead to future club meetings: the program for March will feature a discussion of ARRL DX Test results and also talks on HF antenna systems; April's gathering will sport a program on receivers and receiver accessories. . . . W2IWC/6 has taken over the CQ contest column from W1WY. . . . DL7AV (via WA6PMK) warns that East European broadband FM jammers start honkin' daily at 1500 GMT on 7 MHz, making longpath EU-W6 QSO's extra-difficult at their end of things. . . . We have a few CQ WW and ARRL DX Test scores on hand but no space to print them. If more than a handful of members would turn in their tallies to the VP/CC, we could allocate enough room for them. . . . Next JUG deadline (for the March issue) is March 11; please have all material to W1ARR/6 by that date. Articles, items for the Bulletin Board (sell/swap/buy), station info, questions, comments -- anything of possible interest to your fellow NCCC'er will be considered for publication. . . . And be sure to fill out and return the attached questionnaire to WA6DIL. It's important! CU all at the meeting. -- 73, Bob, W1ARR/WB6GLF.

Your name and call _____

Station equipment (including accessories) _____

Antennas _____

1. ARRL November Sweepstakes (Nov. 8-9, 22-23) -- please indicate your plans and desires:

<u>CW</u>	<u>Ph</u>	
___	___	All-out single-op (gonna kick me some butt)
___	___	Limited operation (either single-op or as part of multi-op crew)
___	___	Would like to have a multi-op (need _____ operators)
___	___	Would be willing to have a guest operator
___	___	For the whole contest
___	___	For some of the contest
___	___	I need a station to operate
___	___	I have equipment but need antennas
___	___	Other: _____

2. ARRL Field Day (June 28-29)

I plan to operate with _____ NCCC group _____ another group

I am interested in working on an NCCC Field Day committee _____ yes _____ no

3. California QSO Party

___	All-out single-op (tuning up for SS)
___	Limited operation (either single-op or as part of multi-op crew)
___	Would like to have a multi-op (need _____ operators)
___	Would be willing to have a guest operator
___	For the whole contest
___	For some of the contest
___	I need a station to operate
___	I have equipment but need antennas ((OVER OVER OVER OVER))

3. California QSO Party (continued from back page)

- ☐ I would be interested in DXpeditioning to
- ☐ a nearby county ☐ single-op
- ☐ a more distant county ☐ multi-op
- ☐ a mobile tour of rare counties
- ☐ I would be willing to work on the Calif. QSO Party committee

4. DXpeditions

- I would be interested in joining a DXpedition to
- ☐ Mexico (expense approximately \$100 per man)
- ☐ the Pacific, Caribbean or South America (\$400-600)
- ☐ for CQ WW (CW) ☐ CQ WW (phone)
- ☐ 1976 ARRL DX (CW) ☐ 1976 ARRL DX (phone)

5. Erector Set

- ☐ I would be willing to help out with an antenna self-help crew (assisting fellow Club members in getting their aerials up)
- ☐ I would like some help in putting up an antenna

Kind _____

Approximate date _____

6. Other contests

Besides the SS, Field Day and the California QSO Party, other contests I plan to operate in 1975 are _____

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB
P. O. Box 2025
Castro Valley, CA 94546



John S. Larson K6AUC
7070 Monte Verde
El Sobrante, CA 94803